

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 ARAE-00 CIAE-00

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P R 081210Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3871

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4740

EO 11652: GS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, CI

SUBJ: CANCELLATION OF UNHRC VISIT TO CHILE

REF: SANTIAGO 4698

1. SUMMARY: GOC HAS OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S DECISION TO CANCEL VISIT OF UNHRC STUDY GROUP AND INDICATES DECISION WAS MADE UNDER PRESIDENT'S SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. IN LATER SPEECH PINOCHET ADDED THOUGHT THAT SUCH INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSIONS ARE INFILTRATED (E.E., BY CHILE'S COMMUNIST ENEMIES). CHILEAN PRESS STRESSES THEME OF NATIONAL UNITY, SOVEREIGNTY, AND INDEPENDENCE, DEFIANCE OF ENEMIES. PRESIDENT'S DECISION CONSTITUTES SETBACK FOR MODERATES IN CHILE; MAY BE HARBINGER OF MORE RIGID HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. END SUMMARY.

2. SECRETARY GENERAL OF GOVERNMENT GEN. HERNAN BEJARES JULY 5 RELEASED OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE CONFIRMING DECISION TO CANCEL  
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UNHRC VISIT TO CHILE ANNOUNCED IN PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S

JULY 4 SPEECH (REFTEL). STATEMENT SAID GOC "OFFICIALLY COMMUNICATES TO COUNTRY" THAT PRESIDENT HAD DECIDED TO "ASK UN" THAT COMMISSION NOT COME. DECISION WAS MADE BY CHIEF OF STATE ON BASIS OF "SOLID CONSIDERATIONS OF DIGNITY AND OF NATIONAL SECURITY, WHICH IN AREA OF FOREIGN RELATIONS IT IS HIS SOLE RESPONSIBILITY TO DEFEND." CONCLUDED THAT GOC WILL MAKE NO FURTHER STATEMENT UNTIL PRESIDENT CONSIDERS IT APPROPRIATE.

3. IN CONTINUATION OF NORTHERN TRIP PINOCHET JULY 5 REFERRED TO DECISION AGAIN: "THIS COUNTRY CANNOT CONTINUE TO PUT UP WITH INFILTRATED COMMISSIONS COMING TO INVESTIGATE US. WE SHALL NEVER ACCEPT THAT." SAID HE KNEW PROBLEMS INVOLVED AND DIFFICULTIES CHILE WOULD HAVE TO CONFRONT, BUT "A COUNTRY THAT HAS BEHIND IT ENTIRE PATRIOTIC MASS DOES NOT FEAR DIFFICULTIES AND THREATS."

4. SANTIAGO PRESS HAS SUPPORTED DECISION WITH FAIRLY WIDE EDITORIAL COVERAGE, STRESSING DAVID AND GOLIATH THEME, DOUBLE STANDARD OF SUCH HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATIONS, AND ALSO CONFUSION BETWEEN UNHRC GROUP AND VISIT YEAR AGO OF IAHRC BODY. BASIC THEME STRESSED IS CHILEAN NATIONAL UNITY, DEFIANCE OF ENEMIES, AND DEFENSE OF CHILEAN INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY.

5. COMMENT: PINOCHET'S SUDDEN DECISION APPEARS TO REPRESENT VICTORY FOR THOSE OF HIS ADVISERS WHO WANT CHILE TO RESPOND TO WHAT THEY CONSIDER UNJUST FOREIGN ATTACK BY GOING IT ALONE. IT IS CERTAINLY A SETBACK FOR THE MORE FLEXIBLE LINE PURSUED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY AND MORE SOPHISTICATED GOC SUPPORTERS, TO EFFECT THAT EXTRAORDINARY INTERIM SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS REQUIRED TEMPORARY CURTAILMENT OF TRADITIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE, BUT THAT THESE COULD BE SATISFACTORILY EXPLAINED TO UNBIASED OBSERVERS AND WOULD ULTIMATELY BE REDUCED AND REMOVED.

6. FORMER GROUP NOT ONLY RESENTS DOUBLE STANDARD BEING APPLIED TO CHILE IN COMPARISON WITH THAT USED FOR COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, BUT ALSO FINDS IT AN AFFRONT TO CHILE'S SOVEREIGN DIGNITY TO BE RECEIVING FOREIGN INVESTIGATORS  
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PRYING INTO INTERNAL SECURITY MATTERS. ANOTHER FACTOR MAY WELL HAVE BEEN RECOGNITION THAT UNHRC GROUP WOULD, LIKE ALL ITS PREDECESSORS, COME UP WITH CRITICAL REPORT, SINCE CHANGES HAVE BEEN SLOW TO COME AND SUBSTANTIVELY FAIRLY INSIGNIFICANT FOLLOWING MORE RAPID IMPROVEMENTS IN MONTHS IMMEDIATELY AFTER JUNTA TOOK OVER.

7. PERHAPS THE PRINCIPAL FACTOR DISTINGUISHING CHILE FROM

OTHER AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES IN ITS RELATIONSHIP TO MULTI-LATERAL ORGANIZATIONS HAS BEEN ITS WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE RESPONSIBLE INVESTIGATING GROUPS AND TO PERMIT THEM BROAD ACCESS WITHIN COUNTRY. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHETHER CHANGE IN THIS REGARD WILL SET STAGE FOR TOUGHER INTERNAL POLICIES AND FOR STRONGER DOMESTIC APPEALS FOR NATIONAL UNITY AGAINST FOREIGN ENEMIES.

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